

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/884,423

Examiner

ABUL K. AZAD

Applicant(s)

ZHOU, GUOJUN

Art Unit

2626

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the communication filed on October 31, 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 2-7, 10-14 and 18-22.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

AK. Azad
10/4/07

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. This action is in response to the communication filed on October 31, 2006.
2. Claims 1-7, 10-14 and 18-22 are pending in this action. Claims 1-5, 10-14 and 18-22 have been amended. Claims 9-10, 15-17 and 23-24 have been canceled.

Examiner's Amendment

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Michael Barre (Reg. No. 44,023) on January 4, 2007.

The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE CLAIM:

Please cancel claim 1.

Amend claim 2 as follows:

2. A system, comprising:

a psycho-physical state detection mechanism for detecting a psycho-physical state of a user based on input speech data from the user;

a spoken dialogue mechanism for carrying on a dialogue with the user based on the psycho-physical state of the user, detected by the psycho-physical detection mechanism from the input speech data from the user;

[The system according to claim 1, wherein said spoken dialogue mechanism comprises:]

a speech understanding mechanism for understanding the input speech data from the user based on the psycho-physical state of the user to generate a literal meaning of the speech data; and

a voice response generation mechanism for generating a voice response to the user based on the literal meaning of the input speech data and the psycho-physical state of the user, wherein the voice response to the user is linguistically and acoustically adjusted according to the detected psycho-physical state of the user.

Amend claim 5 as follows:

Claim 5, line 1, after "claim" replace "1" with --2--

Amend claim 7 as follows:

Claim 7, line 1, after "claim" replace "1" with --2--

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 2-7, 10-14 and 18-22 are allowed over the prior art of record.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

As per independent claims 2, 10 and 18, the applicant teaches a system/method of voice response generation based on the literal meaning of the input speech and psycho-physical state of the user. Prior art of record fails to teach or fairly suggest the claimed combinations of features. Prior art of record particularly fails to teach or fairly suggest, generating voice response based on the literal meaning of the input speech and psycho-physical state of the user, wherein the voice response to the user is linguistically and acoustically adjusted according to the detected psycho-physical state of the user.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Contact Information

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Abul K. Azad** whose telephone number is **(571) 272-7599**. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Richemond Dorvil**, can be reached at **(571) 272-7602**.

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Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

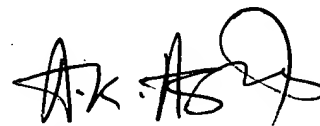
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Or faxed to: **(571) 273-8300**.

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to **401 Dulany Street, Alexandria, VA-22314** (Customer Service Window).

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

January 4, 2007

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A.K. Azad', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Abul K. Azad
Primary Examiner
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